GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1797
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
DWINDLING OF WATER LEVEL IN BHARATPUR BIRD SANCTUARY
Gandhi Smt. Maneka

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that UNESCO has threatened to drop the Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary from its world heritage list because the sanctuary is losing its birds due to dwindling water level;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken to rectify the situation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) The World Heritage Committee in their meeting held during 2005 at Durban, expressed serious concern over the situation of Keoladeo National Park resulting from inadequate availability of water to maintain the wetland ecosystem.In their next meeting held at Vilnius,Lithuania,in 2006,the World Heritage Committee sought an updated,comprehensive report on the state of conservation of the World Heritage property along with the request to implement long term solutions for water problem of the Park.

(c) The steps taken to rectify the situation are as given below:

(i) The Ministry of Environment & Forests has been providing financial & technical assistance to the State Government for the better management of Keoladeo National Park.An amount of Rs. 26.3472 lakhs has been released during the current financial year under the centrally Sponsored Scheme " Assistance to Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries".

(ii) An UNESCO funded project has been launched for better management of Keoladeo National Park.

(iii) The State Government has completed the Chiksana Canal project, which would draw 50 − 60 Mcft. flood water to Keoladeo National Park during the monsoon period.

(iv) Two more projects, viz, Govardhan Drain project and Dholpur-Bharatpur Chambal drinking water project have also been prepared by the State Government to mitigate the water scarcity in Keoladeo National Park.

(v) To address the emergency situation four new deep bore wells and two new shallow bore wells have been dug inside the Park.